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The Best Advice Is From the Independent Adviser.

If the philosophic spirit doesn't animate the whole of this politico-psychological episode, it is to be remembered in confession and avoidance that politics sizzles while philosophy is cold.

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: As an earnest student, seeking to get at philosophy behind events, I have been puzzled by the alacrity and emphasis with which newspapers here that opposed WHITMAN in the late campaign are now the first to offer him advice, age, to inform him, inferentially, what policies he should adopt. Such a phenomenon implies that his opponents of two months ago are now best qualified to shape the attitude of the Governor-elect.

"Are we, then, to conclude that friends should be cast to the winds when polls have closed, and that the proper sources whence to obtain inspiration for our guidance are those that showed most bitterness and enmity a month or so ago? Is this the meaning of events that to succeed in politics a man must turn his back upon his friends and shape his conduct after an election so as to please the men who did what they could to bring him to defeat?

"Another question also is involved: Is there no limit to the gall of the great journalistic organs in New York?

"Your pungent, edifying comment on such problems might go a great way to enlighten an aspiring citizen whose name would bring no weight to such discussions, not being in the public eye, yet who desires to understand, if that may be, the undercurrents or, so to speak, psychology, of politics in the United States.

"New York, January 1. T. W. R."

It is part of a newspaper's business and duty to give its opinions on questions of public policy. It is not estopped from offering "advice" to officials whose candidacy it opposed. It cannot lose interest, or the right to express that interest, in public affairs because the conduct of those affairs is in the hands of others than those whom it would have selected. An independent journal like THE SUN is always entirely free to advocate what it believes to be the soundest course; free to praise or blame without any regard to the political complexion of blame or praise.

In regard to friendship among politicians our cartoonist is too shrewd and did a bird to be gulled by any romantic flapdoodle. There have been illustrious American politicians who in office have been too faithful to their friends, but the disease is not very catching.

The Bright Side of the War.

When Bishop INGRAM of London makes "the bright side" of war the theme of a New Year sermon he puts the War Office under an obligation, but his treatment of the subject would also please BERNHARDI and the disciples of TREITSCHKE.

The good Bishop dilates on "the new spirit of the nation." It excites his admiration, and he returns thanks for it. True, Englishmen of all classes are enlisting for the war, but England's necessity is great and unless the Allies triumph her soil will be invaded.

No one with an understanding of the Englishman's love of free institutions and his combative spirit when he is aroused could have doubted that the response to Lord KIRCHENER'S appeal for recruits would be. The new spirit was a spirit that sniggered; it flamed up when the winds of danger blew upon it. So it will always be with a free people. The decadence of a long peace is more imaginary than real.

War, the ordinary war, may have its compensations, but when a war claims the flower of manhood the price paid for it may be too high. The weak and incompetent will survive, but in any emergency they have little of "the new spirit." Paraguay has never recovered from her five years war with Brazil. Uruguay and Argentina, which ended in 1870 with wasted Paraguay a land of mourning women.

Bishop INGRAM sees the "heavy plumb," the despair of the country paragon," transformed into Private SMITH of the King's Own with a V. C. on his manly chest. It is more likely that the V. C. was won by a steady going, silent fellow who was not the paragon's despair. The dull eyed, plodding clerk is also transformed by the prelate. Heroes of peace as well as heroes of war are usually made of different stuff. And we have a picture of "rows upon rows of women" at work as nurses and knitters; splendid, devoted women they are, but the war is abhorrent to them and they mourn bit-

terly for the martyrs to "the new spirit." War is a cursed thing, says Bishop INGRAM; yet it may "redeem the world." The great war will cost the world hundreds of thousands of lives, make as many more cripples, and ruin industries in Europe for an incalculable number of years, while its cost in money will be scores of billions. Of what he means by the redemption of the world the good man probably has but a vague idea. In political terms it would be hard to define.

No, it requires a strong and partial imagination to see "the bright side" of the war in Europe, Asia and Africa. The mind that builds up a theory of invigorated manhood for any belligerent country ignores the irreparable loss of so many of its most chivalrous sons. War is not essential to the cultivation of manhood. We fancy there are no sturdier people than the peaceful Swiss.

The Record Left by Mr. Whitman.

There can be no question that CHARLES S. WHITMAN leaves behind him a remarkable record of accomplishment in the District Attorney's office. Although his showiest feats were in earlier parts of his service, last year's figures, just published, prove that there was no relaxation in his efforts or reduction in his successes. The disposal of 33,926 cases in a year, with 15,000 convictions, represents an extraordinary amount of work and it suggests that a very moderate policy was pursued under which punishment of real guilt and not a record of verdicts was the object aimed at.

The homicide cases are particularly impressive. Sixty convictions within the year, including six for first degree and fifteen for second degree murder, should have a very discouraging effect on evildoers inspired to kill. The total of 232 homicide convictions during Mr. WHITMAN'S five years in office represents a warfare against this form of crime deserving of the highest praise. It may fairly be said that Mr. WHITMAN never lost a murder case of importance.

Governor WHITMAN'S successor, Mr. CHARLES A. PERKINS, has had the advantage of working with him in the District Attorney's office. He has had under close observation the methods by which the great record has been made. From him also the people of New York will expect accomplishment. The untiring prosecution of real criminals, the skilful and moderate presentation of cases so that juries may be convinced and the higher courts not placed in the position of having to undo the work, constitute the Whitman agencies of success. By sticking to them Mr. PERKINS may also earn the gratitude of the public.

The Sinking of the Formidable in the Channel.

According to survivors of the Formidable who were picked up in a cutter by a Torbay trawler the battleship was torpedoed. This means, assuming the report to be true, that the German submarine flotilla is operating in the Channel, for it was in that body of water about daybreak that the Formidable foundered, so quickly that only the men stationed in the superstructure had a chance to save themselves.

German submarine maneuvers call for the use of four boats against each object ship, and "the whole system of torpedo training in the German navy aims at perfection of assaults delivered under cover of darkness or of correspondingly favorable weather conditions." The rougher the weather the greater is the danger of the enemy. It was in a heavy sea that the Formidable received her death blow. In such a sea the periscope is a shifting object and practically invisible in a half light.

One submarine could, of course, have sunk the battleship, and it is not the policy of the German Admiralty to admit that its undersea boats are operating in fortillas in any waters. The British Admiralty would be glad to believe, to make the best of a bad business, that the Formidable was destroyed by a single daring submarine. There would be a haunting fear, however, that several of the type were abroad in the Channel to startle England with a New Year disaster. It is not the sinking of one battleship, or even the loss of six or seven hundred officers and men, that will give the naval authorities the greatest concern; it is the realization that transporting troops across the Channel to France is now an undertaking of great danger.

England can no longer afford to lose battleships; still less can she afford to lose trained officers and men; least of all can she afford to lose troops that are being ferried across the Channel in transports. It would be an unwarrantable reflection upon the British navy to suppose that it has not been using every available cruiser, destroyer, torpedo boat and submarine to prevent invasion of the Channel by the enemy. In spite of all precautions and of the utmost vigilance, in spite, too, of skillfully laid mines, the German submarines have left their base and inflicted a serious loss upon the British patrol, this time in the carefully guarded Channel. The enemy had reached Dover before, and had even sunk two merchant ships, the Malachite and Primo; but nothing on the scale of this destruction of the patrol was accomplished.

It seems to be a reasonable conclusion from the disaster to the Formidable that the German tactics are now to be methodically directed against British warships in Channel waters with the purpose of "holding up" troop transportation and ultimately frustrating attempts to land the full strength of reinforcements in France. The risk will have to be taken by the British authorities, however; such is the necessity of a decisive campaign in Flanders. The naval phase of the war is at present of secondary importance from the British point of view. For a fleet action the first line of battle ships are, although not exposed, always prepared. It is imperative that troops shall be

trained and transported to France. The war must go on, though one patrolling workshop after another be sacrificed. The Admiralty judgment will be that disasters like that which befell the Formidable are not likely to happen often enough to weaken the navy materially; and that when troops are to be carried across the Channel an extra strong convoy can be furnished to deal with the enemy's submarines. Nevertheless, we fancy that the First Sea Lord must be profoundly disturbed by the loss of the Formidable and what it may portend.

Twin Poets Laureate.

Right sweet it is to hear, even amid the coarse belchings of cannon, the feet of the immortal Muses pound the typewriter. The boast "Lark, lark, we keep a poet" might fittingly be made by an Administration headed by a distinguished virtuoso on the discursive violin of words. Drooping letters plucked up a heart when a STX despatch brought the proud news that not one but two gleemen are supported by a Government kinder than has been thought to literature. Two minstrels dear to THE SUN; one of them for a generation on its list.

The elder versifier first: The Hon. CATO SELLS of Iowa and Texas, who became an American expert by his diligent services on Democratic committees, was named not after the censorious old Roman hunk who wrote the farming book, or his great-grandson, the prize of Ulica, but the mythical "Dionysius Cato," whose "Diatiches" in hexameter was a "best seller" of the Middle Ages. Thus was the Hon. DIONYSIUS or DENNIS CATO SELLS consecrated to his calling. If, following him, he has shed one of his names he has not wholly given up to politics what was meant for mankind, as the lovely lines with which he blessed Mr. Wilson on Christmas more than prove:

"Open armed the Red Man welcomed
Pale face pilgrim to his shore,
Greetings glad as I send you
And good will forevermore!"

Cato's Christmas verse is "tender, musical and terse." Is there an allegory in its pocket? Does it hint that the Democratic young men are murmuring at the Chief? Are tomahawks being honed for use against the pale face pilgrim? Twere to consider too curiously to consider so. Let us rather reverently repeat from ESTABLISHED "Speaker" the first fine careless rapture of DIONYSIUS C. SELLS:

"Full is my heart of old romance
Of such men and of such scenes,
Of moonlit hunt and forest dance,
Of maiden and of swain."
I see red gambler lose and win
Blanket and dard moose skin,
I hear Red Coot and Bull Moose chin,
I smell bear chops and whiskey raw!"

Colonel Tom Blach of the New Jersey Light Artillery, whose noblest metaphor or hyperbole was the raising, on stationery, of the Lisbon legation to an embassy, was not quite in his best form in his improving card:

"When duty and ambition take us far from friends and home
They're never forgotten, no matter where I roam."

Too didactic, too formal. Discriminating critics prefer the rude heartiness of his "Ordered to Portugal!"
"A darn good perch
For old Tom Blach!"

But the gladdest of hands to these laureates two. The bad old year went reconciled to its end.

The Higher Cost of Amusement.

A quarter of a century ago T. R. JACOBS, who died the other day, was a notable figure in amusements. To him was due the existence of the so-called "ten, twenty, thirty" circuits, which offered amusements at these then unprecedented prices. Vaudeville, melodrama and operetta were provided at lower figures than any previous theatre manager had been able to attain. This pioneer naturally benefited by the result of his originality.

But it is doubtful if his reform had the least permanent effect on the theatre. Amusements are at least as costly as they ever were. There is but one form of entertainment which may be said to have reduced this cost. Moving pictures are less expensive than any plays ever were, but they will always remain an inferior form of diversion in the minds of the public. There seems now no possibility of achievement which will put them on a level with the spoken drama.

If Mr. JACOBS had learned that the New York theatres now charge two dollars and a half for seats on holidays and on Saturdays he would have realized that the public as it exists in the metropolis is indifferent to the cost of its amusements. To those capable of indulging in this form of entertainment it is quality that counts. In spite of the temporary vogue of the "ten, twenty, thirty" system, amusements have followed the present direction of economies and grown continually higher.

Mr. Taft Upon Philippine Self-Government.

Ex-President TAFT, testifying before a Senate committee yesterday about the future of the Philippines, was at last in a position, as he said, to say just what he thought and believed. It would take more than one generation, probably two, he declared, to train the Filipinos for self-government, and to be capable of profiting by the instruction they must become an English speaking people. The ex-President quoted from the President with telling effect when he read from one of Mr. WILSON'S books that self-government was "not a mere form of institutions, but a form of character, a growing of a people to political maturity." Applying this truth Mr. TAFT said:

"We cannot permit the Filipino people with a character. It must be acquired. One way to acquire it is through hard knocks, as the Anglo-Saxon race acquired it. . . . You cannot make over a people in one generation, particularly you cannot when that is a generation of

adults, and a vast majority of that generation is woefully ignorant."

When Mr. TAFT remarked to the committee, "You can't educate all of the people, you haven't got the money," he was not to be taken literally. What he meant was that education would be a process not only involving a great outlay but extending over many years. What renders the ex-President's judgment especially valuable is the fact that originally he was opposed to acquiring the Philippines; he even told Mr. McKINLEY that it had been a mistake. If Mr. TAFT were not an honorable and conscientious man he would be inclined to endorse the Jones bill in order to see the Filipinos turned away to shift for themselves before their education in self-government was completed.

It is less than a year ago that an anti-imperialist, Mr. FRANK H. CLARK, who visited the archipelago to study conditions on the spot, was so impressed with the American administration that he abandoned his theory of independence as soon as he realized that what he saw was "the first dawning of justice, safety and happiness that these poor people have ever known." He came to the conclusion that outside of the Spanish mestizo class "not one Filipino in ten thousand" wanted to see the Americans evacuate the islands. That is the judgment of every unbiased American who has visited the Philippines. But it is only when a man of Mr. TAFT'S distinction speaks out that the truth makes an impression.

It is hard to see any evidence of hard times in the indifference regarding their valuable shown by hotel and restaurant guests on New Year's morning. One hotel alone reports tens of thousands of dollars worth of diamonds and cash left upon the tables or sprinkled over the floor. The number of recovered diamonds and cash is twenty-one marbles and inflict quite serious losses on our Mexican neighbors, killing some hundreds of them, and why has he the assurance to say that those were not "acts of war?"

Why, having demanded of General Huerta a salute of twenty-one guns, having sent a military expedition to enforce the demand, did he withdraw the same from Vera Cruz without having received the salute and without having in the meanwhile protected American citizens or American property in Mexico?

So respectable a body as the Chamber of Commerce of the City of New York, on the advice of counsel learned in the law, stated at an early date as August 12, 1914, that "Great Britain has already issued her proclamation of contraband, dated August 5, 1914, which follows explicitly the Declaration of London except in one respect, namely: that it transfers flying machines from contraband to absolute contraband. The Declaration of London also provides that the following may not be declared contraband of war: (1) Raw cotton, Why did Mr. Wilson wait until the latter part of October before announcing to the people of the United States that cotton was not contraband?"

What has he to say in reply to the charge made by J. C. Colquhoun, Democratic Governor of Texas, in his letter published in the New York Times of December 27, 1914, that "England stopped American shipments until the English spinners had bought their supply of cotton at 64 cents a pound?"

Why did he allow his superannuated inept Secretary of State to put into his recent report to Great Britain concerning the utterly unnecessary moral injunction to our merchants to avoid hiding copper ingots in bales of cotton, which the English have already availed of to prove that Mr. Wilson admits that our merchants have been doing that thing?

What has become of the reiterated references in the Democratic platform of 1912 to the "increased cost of living?"

Has Mr. Wilson's tariff reduced the cost to the ultimate consumer of any one article of general consumption?

Have the expenses of the Federal Government as a member of the hundred of thousands of those who feed on its patronage been reduced in any respect?

Despite the fact that the "ordinary receipts" of the Federal Government in the year ended June 30, 1914, were greater than ever before, have not Mr. Wilson and his servile majority in Congress this year added yet another \$100,000,000 a year to the burden of Federal taxation? STUYVESANT FISH.

The Old One.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Concerning your editorial "The Old One" in today's Sun, I would like to say that a truthful word is spoken in jest.

One-half the Democratic party to-day would vote for T. R. for President if they ever got the chance.

The only reason T. R. was not elected last time was because the Roosevelt Democrats couldn't be made to understand that the Progressive party was anything but the wingman end of the Republican party and refused to give aid and comfort to any such crowd.

Let T. R. run as a liberal and protectionist and his election is certain.

New York, December 29.

The Manhattan Philosopher Hears Vaudeville.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: "Constant Reader" in the morning Star implies that vaudeville singers sing. This is all rot. They do not sing, they recite, and in cracked, raspy, sharp voices at that. Real singing on the vaudeville stage is as scarce as the dove. Squealing is not singing.

New York, January 2. E. H. J.

A Prize Contest Proposed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Why not do something for the welfare of the nation now that the Board of Education is dealing fairly by the teacher-mothers, by having a voting contest to decide by a popular vote upon the most popular teacher-mother husband in the family.

New York, January 2.

A Hymn of War.

O God, how incoherent, swift,
And hot with blood and salt with tears
The supplications that we lift
This wildest of all warring years.

And strange the Christian altar seems—
So ghastly, so ungarlanded!
The candle-broken bodies mock
The body, broken for our need.

No table built of wood or stones
On which the muted lamb was tied;
Upon the ark of human bones
The Lamb of God is crucified.

The bursting bomb, the battle shock,
The ravished hearts that slowly bleed,
The countless broken bodies mock
Thy body, broken for our need.

Thou art the captain of the host,
On Thee we call to kill and maim;
On Father, Son and Holy Ghost
To light and lead the fearful flame.

We visit on the innocent
Thy wrath, in which no man can live,
Lord, must Thy pity be made
O Prince of Peace, forgive, forgive!

ANNA FOSTER MURRAY.

THE PRESIDENT'S "NOON HOUR."

Eleven Questions for His Consideration Suggested by STUYVESANT FISH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: It is reported that Mr. Wilson will deliver an address to the people of the United States at Indianapolis on Jackson's birthday, Friday, January 8, and "will speak out boldly in defense of his administration and will seek to clear up many misapprehensions that have arisen." There is a promise of other speeches, perhaps marking the beginning of a campaign for renomination. The suggestion is made that the defence will be of Mr. Wilson's foreign policy.

In the first place, I don't think January 8 is Jackson's birthday; further than this, it is the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans, which, if celebrated at all, should be celebrated in that city, and I understand is to be observed there locally as a part of the centennial of peace between the United States and Great Britain.

Thank heaven, we are now, or shall be on March 4, 1915, half way through President Wilson's Administration. Perhaps it is just as well that both he and the people should take part of what may be called the "noon hour" to look over the work done, see what has been faulty, and whether in the latter half of the time for which he has been hired things cannot be amended.

There still left a full week in which a great many questions can be asked Mr. Wilson which he might like to answer and perhaps some others to which the people at large would be glad to have him answer. With a view to bringing out others, may I suggest a few such questions:

1. Why did Mr. Wilson appoint Mr. BROWN?

2. Why does he retain that poor man when the latter can so easily make more money "Chauteauquing?"

3. Why did he send the most powerful naval expedition the United States ever put to sea into the principal part of a neighboring republic with which we were at peace; take possession of Vera Cruz with some slight loss (twenty-one marines) and inflict quite serious losses on our Mexican neighbors, killing some hundreds of them, and why has he the assurance to say that those were not "acts of war?"

4. Why, having demanded of General Huerta a salute of twenty-one guns, having sent a military expedition to enforce the demand, did he withdraw the same from Vera Cruz without having received the salute and without having in the meanwhile protected American citizens or American property in Mexico?

5. So respectable a body as the Chamber of Commerce of the City of New York, on the advice of counsel learned in the law, stated at an early date as August 12, 1914, that "Great Britain has already issued her proclamation of contraband, dated August 5, 1914, which follows explicitly the Declaration of London except in one respect, namely: that it transfers flying machines from contraband to absolute contraband. The Declaration of London also provides that the following may not be declared contraband of war: (1) Raw cotton, Why did Mr. Wilson wait until the latter part of October before announcing to the people of the United States that cotton was not contraband?"

6. What has he to say in reply to the charge made by J. C. Colquhoun, Democratic Governor of Texas, in his letter published in the New York Times of December 27, 1914, that "England stopped American shipments until the English spinners had bought their supply of cotton at 64 cents a pound?"

7. Why did he allow his superannuated inept Secretary of State to put into his recent report to Great Britain concerning the utterly unnecessary moral injunction to our merchants to avoid hiding copper ingots in bales of cotton, which the English have already availed of to prove that Mr. Wilson admits that our merchants have been doing that thing?

8. What has become of the reiterated references in the Democratic platform of 1912 to the "increased cost of living?"

9. Has Mr. Wilson's tariff reduced the cost to the ultimate consumer of any one article of general consumption?

10. Have the expenses of the Federal Government as a member of the hundred of thousands of those who feed on its patronage been reduced in any respect?

11. Despite the fact that the "ordinary receipts" of the Federal Government in the year ended June 30, 1914, were greater than ever before, have not Mr. Wilson and his servile majority in Congress this year added yet another \$100,000,000 a year to the burden of Federal taxation? STUYVESANT FISH.

Promotion Proposed for a Cabinet Officer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: After reading what Secretary Redfield has to say I nominate him for the office of Treasurer to the president of the United States.

New York, January 2. A. BRILL.

Fair Play for an American Born Citizen.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Will you shed a bright light on a subject that puzzles me?

When did Mr. Vollmer of Iowa, member of Congress, immigrate to this country? Where was he naturalized and when did he take the oath of allegiance?

He did take the oath of allegiance with the German band hand?

Do you consider he is carrying out the President's policy of neutrality or is he to be considered as an epidemic nationalistic?

This has had its day, has achieved its glories, but something bigger, safer, more glorious, more adequate for present needs is imperatively called for in these modern times, when almost all the relations of men are becoming necessarily internationalized.

Let the peace societies, then, the leagues for limiting armaments and all other organizations whose object is the world's betterment, transform themselves into associations for the promotion of world federation, and may the United States and America have the glory of being the first nation to propose this plan to an expectant world.

This is the gist of an address on Internationalism I made at the Twilight Club, December 29. I am delighted to find substantiated the same programme advocated by Mr. Darwin P. Magney in the papers today.

CHARLES P. MAGNEY.

NEWARK, N. J., January 2.

Courtship on New Plymouth.

Priscilla Miller asked John Alden why he didn't speak for himself.

"Because I am afraid I wouldn't get a chance to afterward," he replied frankly.

Luther.

Luther, the world has need of thee!

Thy country needs thee at this hour

To scourge its world embattled power

And stir to flame democracy.

Aye, for the fervor of thy words

Were more than guns, were more than swords!

Couldst thou but speak as thou of old

Didst, with the stern admonishings

The dawn of far distant things

The Might come; the people might behold

The fall of arrogance, the fall

Of that which holds fair freedom thrall!

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